

MINUTES

CITY OF AUBURN - TRAFFIC COMMITTEE

**Tuesday, September 15, 2009
8:30 A.M. @ City Hall Conference Room 10**

- 1. Public Comment: None**
- 2. Approval of August 18, 2009 Minutes as submitted by Sue Fraizer
Motion/Second – Jack Warren/Bob Richardson**

ACTION ITEMS:

- 3. Time Limited Parking on Lincoln Way / Court House Coffee Shop (Move to action item from Item #11 as this was incorrectly placed under discussion items.)**

Linda Lareau met with members of the Old Town Business Association as previously directed to get the associations approval for a 30 minute parking space designation in front of her business. Her business primarily conducts brief customer contacts to less than 30 minutes while most other area businesses have more lengthy encounters needing extended parking times. Linda indicated her business is negatively impacted by extended parking use and the OTBA agreed to provide her a letter stating support for a 30 minute exception in front of her business. Letter submitted on her behalf from the OTBA.

Motion/Richardson: to approve 30 minute parking space designation.

Second/Warren: Approval by a members and direction to Public Works to put sign in place and proper curb markings.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- 4. Orange Street and Finley St. update by Chief Harris and public.
(ITEMS 6 & 7 on the agenda)**

Chief Harris gave an update on the Public Forum meeting held on July 30, 2009 in the Rose Room. Six members from the public attended the meeting and all gave input on the issues occurring on Orange Street, Finley Street and around Placer High School in general. PW Director Jack Warren and City Engineering Division Manager Bernie Schroeder attended the meeting and responded to questions from the public. The meeting identified problems relating to speeders, damaged parked vehicles, congestion, no parking areas, and pros/cons from the Finley St. one way directional change.

After a presentation of survey findings to the public and a question and answer period, all in attendance offered additional suggestions to mitigate traffic congestion and parking issues on Orange Street. The community survey results and the resounding consensus from those attending the forum was to maintain the Finely Street one way designation as it does seem to help. The traffic congestion on Orange Street continues to be a challenge, however the consensus again was to allow two-way traffic, allow parking on both sides of the street, repaint the curbs and parking space designations for driver clarity, and work with Placer High School to gain more compliance from student drivers.

The outcome of the meeting was to work closely with Placer High School to gain more compliance for students to not park on Orange Street, rather use the school parking lots that have sufficient capacity for student parking. Public Works had painted the curbs prior to this TC meeting and feedback from Orange Street resident Shelly Fletcher was the freshly painted parking space designations had very positive results to date. An ongoing need for speed enforcement exists as well. Area residents felt Orange Street traffic congestion was the best form of speed enforcement as drivers are compelled to drive slower because of the parked vehicles and two-way traffic.

At the conclusion of the Streetscape project the police department will make follow-up contacts with some area residents for their input on traffic concerns at that time. Shelly Fletcher and others agreed after Streetscape a more accurate picture of traffic flow and congestion issues will exist. Also any contacts with area businesses by the police department asking these businesses to instruct employees/customers to not park on Orange St. will also wait until after the completion of Streetscape. Area residents would rather avoid making these contacts until after construction has ended.

Another item mentioned at this TC meeting was concerns of vehicle/driver speed for vehicles traveling from Hillmont St. S/B onto Orange Street and then right W/B onto Lewis Street. Karen Lardner brought up the concern this turn onto Lewis may need signage to slow down or even a stop sign as she believes people will pick up speed after Streetscape construction concludes. Shelly Fletcher agreed with this assessment to look at Orange Street at Lewis St. for possible needed changes.

Finally, Chief Harris asked Shelly Fletcher if the overview given by the Chief and PW Director Warren was an accurate account of the forum and survey results from her recall. Shelly agreed the public account given accurately relayed the desires of the area residents to the best of her recall.

Jack Warren felt it was appropriate to move this report to City Council for an update of proactive efforts and findings to date. Chief Harris agreed and indicated police would continue to work with PHS and do speed enforcement as much as possible. City Manager Richardson asked this issue to be revisited in

the spring 2010. Shelly Fletcher made an additional request the police department look at driver's use of Neighbors Lane for a drive-around for Finley Street and Orange St. She is concerned this may simply move part of the congestion issue to this private roadway not meant for non-resident traffic flow.

5. Oakwood Street/HEAD START speeding vehicles:

Mr. Helley failed to attend the meeting however Chief Harris gave an overview of his concerns. He complained students and adults alike will speed up Oakwood from High Street before, during and after school. This issue of speeding is further impacted by vehicles cutting through the HEADSTART Program offices located on the North/West corner of High Street and Oakwood. Staff at the HEADSTART office, have in the past put a chain across the parking lot entrance from High Street to stop drivers from cutting through the parking lot. Chief Harris has researched the issue and enforcement action is limited because of the lack of statute for this specific issue. Chief Harris instructed staff to write down license plates of drivers and to contact the police immediately when incidents occur. The police will attempt to monitor the problem during peak times and also ask that PHS put the word out to the student body this is not allowed.

The police department will have monitors observe speed of vehicles on Oakwood as well as drivers cutting through the HEADSTART parking lot to get an accurate picture of the problem. Proactive efforts will then be made to eliminate both issues. The private parking lot at HEADSTART may benefit from speed bumps/signage notifying drivers to discourage them from driving through the lot.

6. Orange Street Survey (Included in item #4 above)

Chief Harris – included this update in ITEM #5 with Finley Street. No changes to be made to traffic flow directions or parking on the street. Public works will refresh the paint on Orange Street for red zones and parking spaces.

7. Valley View Drive

Chief Harris addressed this even though the complainant was not present. Police have been told of the problem and asked to do enforcement when possible. Chief Harris has instructed Mr. Rothbardt to contact the police with vehicle description, violation time, etc. promptly so enforcement efforts can be taken against the violators when possible.

8. Reserved Parking Permits City Lots – Status update

Bernie Schroeder has the parking counts for spaces assigned to each city lot and those spaces not under existing permit will have signage removed opening the spaces to the public. Those spaces already purchased will remain for customer use while others will be opened for the public to allow for off-street parking during the Streetscape construction.

9. College Way Parking Violations – Mr. Crenshaw

Mr. Crenshaw is concerned with drivers parking on College Way and failing to turn their wheels to the curb. The police department has a warning notice they can place on vehicle windows in an effort to educate drivers to gain their compliance. Street signage may also help with this problem and PW will assist with this possibility. Mr. Crenshaw expressed greatest concern on Lincoln Way near the area of the Post Office. The police will approach the issue with warnings to educate drivers and then issue cites as needed.

Additionally, Mr. Crenshaw expressed his concern over the placement of speed limit signs on Auburn Folsom Road near Maidu Market. He feels the sign should be moved to a location more North in front of the pharmacy business. Director Jack Warren and Chief Harris explained the engineering studies dictate correct speeds and designated speed zones on city streets. The city cannot randomly decide where to place signs and move limits up and down without adhering to engineering findings and advisement. Additional discussion took place on the 85% formula used by engineers to define proper roadway speeds and the city will abide by these engineer findings. Jack Warren will look to verify existing speed limit signs are clearly visible and in compliance with the recommendations by the engineering study.

City Manager Richardson brought up a pedestrian traffic concern along the train tracks that run under Auburn Folsom from the area of Railhead Park to Auburn Recreation Park. He received word from pedestrians along Auburn Folsom Road that transients may be hanging around under the overcrossing and possible assaults may occur. Chief Harris will research but did not think any assaults had occurred or specific problems involving transients in this area or on AF Road. The Chief felt Team Track under the freeway was more of a concern and this area falls under the responsibility of Cal Trans.

10. Brewery Lane traffic:

City Manager Richardson indicated ongoing traffic considerations for Brewery Lane include the possibility of a parking lot on Brewery itself and the impact this may have on the Brewery Lane alley turn off from Sacramento Street. City planning is working on possible changes and unfortunately limited steps can be taken to mitigate the current problem. Delineation poles cannot be installed in front of the OZ Gallery business which occasionally involves a large truck striking the side of the building. Richardson suggested PW look at building an asphalt curb out further to the roadway so drivers are aware they need to turn wide to avoid the building. Chief Harris closed this topic with a reminder from CHP Officer/Risk Management expert Gordon Graham that says commercial truck routes should have left turns built into the routes as they are safer than right turns.

OTBA AGENDA ITEMS PENDING PARKING/TRAFFIC STUDY:

11. Traffic Study – Pending held over Issues:

Time Limit Parking in front of Courthouse Coffee

Linda Lareau – (Moved to Action Item #3)

Brewery Lane Traffic Issue: Catherine Rowe

Request to remove “No Parking” signs from Brewery Lane and allow parallel parking: Bryon Hayes

NEXT TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: December 15, 2009

Meeting Adjourned: 9:30 a.m.

Linda Bauer meeting notes typed by Harris